

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 251855Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7820
INFO AMEMBASSY BERNE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANGAUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 1983

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: POST MORTEM ON SEIZURE OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN
SAN SALVADOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1871

1. CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION MET FOR 90 MINUTES ON
APRIL 24 AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO (DEAN OF
THE CORPS) TO HEAR INTER ALIA A RESUME OF THEIR EXPERIENCES
BY THE HEADS OF THE FOUR FOREIGN EMBASSIES (SOTA RICA, PANAMA,
SWITZERLAND AND VENEZUELA) RECENTLY OCCUPIED BY FORCES OF THE
BLOQUE POPULAR REVOLUCIONARIO (BPR).

2. IN A DETAILED PRESENTATION, THOSE CHIEFS OF MISSION
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DESCRIBED THE PROBLEMS AND FRUSTRATIONS OF THEIR RECENT
EXPERIENCE. ALL WERE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION THAT IT WOULD EXPEL THE OCCUPYING FORCES ONLY
WHEN REQUESTED TO DO SO BY THE EMBASSIES INVOLVED. NONE
QUESTIONED THE CORRECTNESS NOR THE WISDOM OF HAVING
SUPPLIED FOOD TO THE UNINVITED GUESTS, AND ALL FIRMLY
SUPPORTED THE POSITION THEY HAD STEADFASTLY MAINTAINED

THAT THEY COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF EL SALVADOR BY ENDORSING OR IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE BPR. THEY DESCRIBED THE OCCUPYING FORCES AS BEING A MIXED BAG OF PEASANTS AND WELL-ORGANIZED STUDENTS, WITH THE LATTER PLAYING AN ON-SITE LEADERSHIP ROLE AND DEMONSTRATING GREAT CNICISM IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE DIPLOMATS.

3. THE CHIEFS OF MISSION APPRECIATED THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN THEM BY PRESIDENT ROMERO IN TAKING AND HOLDING TO THE POSITION THAT THOSE OCCUPYING THE PREMISES COULD LEAVE WITHOUT MOLESTATION OR DETENTION BY THE SECURITY FORCES WHENEVER THEY MIGHT FINALLY CHOOSE TO DO SO. THIS COMMITMENT PLAYED A KEY ROLE I THE EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT AND EVACUATION OF THE EMBASSIES.

4. THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, WHO ENJOYS A LOCAL REPUTATION AS SOMETHING OF A FIREBRAND, CRITICIZED THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO HISHO PVFUKR#NOT HAVING TAKEN A MORE ACTIVE

ROLE IN THE EPISODE AND THEN DEPLORED THE LIMITED NUMBER OF HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WHO HAD TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO CONTACT HIM OR HIS WIFE DURING THE INCIDENT WITH ANY WORDS OF SYMPATHY OF SOLIDARITY.

5. NONE OF THOSE INVOLVED FELT THAT THE OCCUPYING FORCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN CHASTENED OR DISCOURAGED BY THE OUTCOME, AND THEY WARNED THAT OTHER SUCH INITIATIVES MIGHT WELL BE EXPECTED IN THE FUTURE. ONE CHIEF OF MISSION CONFIDED TO ME PRIVATELY THAT A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPYING FORCES IN THAT EMBASSY HAD SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL THEY HAD TAKEN OVER THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES.

6. ALL ATTENDING CHIEFS OF MISSION APPEARED TO SHARE THE VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAINTAIN IN FORCE THE PRESENTLY AUGMENTED SECURITY PATROLS STATIONED AT ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES.

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NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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